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Just for KIDS online!

Go online to play games, check out venomous Gila monsters, and create your own hilarious Thanksgiving story. kids.nationalgeographic.com

On the Cover

Best friends Suzy the chimpanzee and Augie the golden retriever love to play together.
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Weird but true

BY JEFFREY WANDEL

Check out these 9 outrageous facts.

ELEPHANTS CAN RUN FASTER THAN HUMANS.



SAND melts at around 3,000°F.

There is real GOLD in the sun.

A BOWLING PIN HAS TO TILT ABOUT TEN DEGREES TO FALL DOWN.



Tyrannosaurus rex means "tyrant lizard king" in Latin.



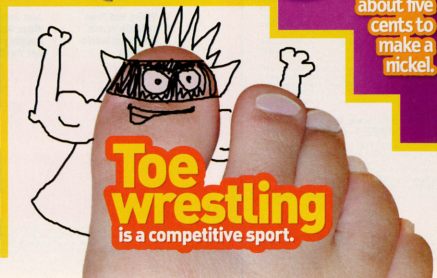
THE DOTS ON DICE ARE CALLED PIPS.





It costs about five cents to make a nickel.





JONATHAN HALLING / NDS STAFF (ALL PHOTOS AND ILLUSTRATIONS)

Wildlife WATCH

BY JENNIFER WEEKS



A WILD TURKEY IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, TAKES TO THE SIDEWALK.

Wild Turkeys Come to Town

Zelda the wild turkey is a city girl. Instead of making her home in a forest, she has lived in a New York City park for six years. She roosts in trees at night but roams around during the day, having her photo taken by tourists. This local celebrity isn't afraid to soar to new heights, either. Zelda once made her way to a balcony 28 floors up!

FOWL PLAY

At one time North America had millions of wild turkeys, but early settlers overhunted them and cut down forests to make room for farmland. Eventually, wild turkeys were forced into remote woods, and their population dwindled.

About 50 years ago many states began releasing wild gobblers in safe forested areas. They also controlled hunting. With better protection, wild turkeys started wandering out of the woods into farmlands, suburbs, and even cities. Since they've made a comeback, these birds are turning up all across North America—wherever there are trees for sleeping and open spaces for feeding.

TURKEY TROT

In springtime, turkeys come together in open areas and put on a show. "Males fan out their tails, strut around, and gobble to attract mates," says Wayne Petersen, a bird expert with the conservation group Mass Audubon.

Just don't get too close. Sometimes excited turkeys chase people or peck at shiny objects like car mirrors, thinking their reflections are rival birds. "They're kind of goofy, but they're not mean," says Petersen.

Male wild turkeys weigh about 20 pounds and can grow tall enough to peer into first-floor windows.

The gobblers can run 25 miles an hour and fly 55 miles an hour over short distances.

TWO WILD TURKEYS CROSS THE ROAD IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

ZELDA PERCHES ON A NEW YORK CITY BALCONY.

ASTONISHING STORIES FROM THE FILES OF

Guinness World Records

BY KRISTIN HUNT

Go online for more information about Guinness World Records! kids.nationalgeographic.com/Videos

FRIDGE ON TEETH



Some kids can balance a basketball on a fingertip. Frank Simon can balance a refrigerator on his teeth. Simon and three friends lifted the 140-pound empty fridge and placed it on his choppers to set the record for the heaviest weight balanced on the teeth. Simon started small, then moved on to things such as a motorcycle and a clothes dryer. His attempts don't always go as planned. Once he was balancing a shopping cart, and ten birds suddenly landed on the basket.



BALL OF RUBBER BANDS

Walk past Joel Waul's house, and you'll see a few plants, a car...and a 9,032-pound rubber band ball. It took Waul about five years and 733,250 rubber bands to build the largest rubber band ball. Waul started creating the ball in his backyard until it grew too big. That's when he towed it out front with his car. Waul affectionately calls the ball "Megaton," but the ball isn't always nice to *him*. When the ball was "only" about 400 pounds, it rolled over Waul's hand.



TINY DOG

Toss this dog a bone! Just make sure it's a really little one. Brandy the Chihuahua is the smallest dog on record by length, measuring six inches from her nose to the tip of her tail. She eats only bits of dry dog food and mashed-up scrambled eggs. Brandy's best friend is Tyson the boxer, who is about 30 times her weight. But that doesn't stop them from hanging out—they even share a doggie bed.

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Just Joking



Q Where did the seaweed find a job working for a sea otter?

A In the "kelp wanted" ads!

Q What is in an astronaut's favorite sandwich?



A Launch meat.

TONGUE TWISTER!



Say this fast three times:

Quick kiss, quicker kiss

You've got to be joking...

Q Why did the baby cookie cry?

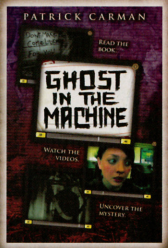


A Because its mother was a wafer so long.

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SKELETON CREEK
BY PATRICK CARMAN

READ THE BOOK.
WATCH THE VIDEOS.
UNCOVER THE MYSTERY!



CLUES FROM RYAN'S JOURNAL AND SARAH'S VIDEOS ALL POINT TO ONE THING—SOMEONE WILL DO ANYTHING TO STOP THEM FROM UNCOVERING THE DEADLY TRUTH.

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video game CENTRAL

BY MARK MACDONALD

GAMING ON THE GO

Got a few minutes with nothing to do? Don't wait in line or sit in the car bored when you can be off collecting unusual pets, fighting as a robot ninja, or saving the world from aliens. Do it all with these handheld games, perfect for playing a little bit at a time.

POKÉMON PLATINUM



Nintendo DS

Pikachu and pals are back, and they need your help. As the top Pokémon trainer, it's up to you to investigate the disturbance at Mt. Coronet and get to the bottom of the mysterious ice age that suddenly hit the Sinnoh region. Explore the topsy-turvy Distortion World, where the laws of gravity don't apply. (For example, you'll walk up walls to make it through.) Luckily you don't need to do it alone. Bring along all your Pokémon from previous DS games, or go online to trade tips or compete in mini-games with other trainers!

» TIP #1 At the end of the game, in the Pastoria Gym, go back and recover after beating all the trainers. Do that *before* you approach the puzzle and fight Crasher Wake.

» TIP #2 After you become Sinnoh Champion, you can still take on plenty of new side quests. For example, try flying to Snowpoint City and taking the ferry.



RETRO GAME CHALLENGE



Nintendo DS

This game is like having a whole video arcade in one little cartridge. It's a collection of eight classic-style games, all easy to learn and perfect for playing just minutes at a time. Blast through aliens in *Cosmic Gate*, battle as a robot ninja in *Haggle Man*, or race your way to the finish line in *Rally King*. If you ever get stuck, check out the virtual magazines in the game for tricks and codes.





» TIP #1 In *Cosmic Gate*, keep shooting without hitting any enemies to make a pink warp gate appear. Shoot the gate to activate it and use it to warp to stage 64, the final level.

» TIP #2 At the *Rally King* title screen, hold the D-pad down and right as you press select to make all the other cars disappear when you play.

SPIDER-MAN: WEB OF SHADOWS



PSP

New York is under attack by deadly symbiote aliens, and it's up to Spidey and friends (including fan favorites like Nightcrawler, Black Cat, and the Green Goblin) to stop them. Take on waves of bad guys as you crawl, climb, and swing through the city, using Spidey's red suit to get around quickly. Switch to his black outfit when you need extra power. Defeated enemies drop orbs you can use to unlock new powers and abilities, like an enhanced dodge move, drill kick, or the jackhammer stomp.



» TIP #1 Tired of walking or swinging your way around town? Try landing on top of a taxi to catch a ride.

» TIP #2 Complete the game to unlock New Game Plus Mode, where you keep all the abilities you've earned. Use them to swing back through levels and grab goodies you couldn't reach before.

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Double The Dora Adventure!

Dora loves her puppy, Perrito. Help her feed him, bathe him, and dress him up. You can also teach Perrito to sit, jump, speak, fetch and try to win a trophy in the Big Puppy Competition. ¡Vamos a jugar! Let's play!



Help Dora and friends bring color back to the world. Fly with butterfly wings, perform tricks with a magical wand, and bounce off sparkling crystals. You can even play as Boots for the very first time! ¡Vámonos! Let's go!





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Wii NINTENDO DS.

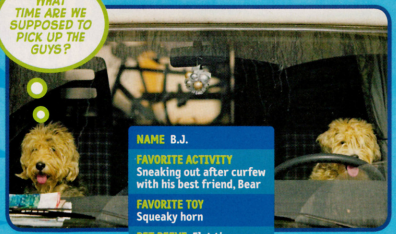
NICKELODEON DANGER HIGH VOLTAGE BLACK LANTERN STUDIOS, INC. 2K PLAY

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Naughty Pets

CAUGHT ON CAMERA

WHAT TIME ARE WE SUPPOSED TO PICK UP THE GUYS?



NAME B.J.

FAVORITE ACTIVITY
Sneaking out after curfew with his best friend, Bear

FAVORITE TOY
Squeaky horn

PET PEEVE Flat tires

YAWN. I AM SO BORED WITH YOUR WRAPPING GAMES.



NAME Beau

FAVORITE ACTIVITY
Pretending to ignore his owner but secretly loving the attention

FAVORITE TOY
He'll never tell: He pretends he couldn't care less.

PET PEEVE
Barrettes

Bet you didn't know

BY SHARON THOMPSON AND JONATHAN SCHAFER

10 sweet facts about desserts

1 The largest s'more ever made used 40,000 marshmallows, 8,000 chocolate bars, and 55,000 graham crackers.

2 The oldest chocolate ever found was in a 2,600-year-old pot.



3 A man once ate 49 glazed doughnuts in 8 minutes.

4 National Parfait Day is November 25.

5 Some astronauts living on the *Mir* space station ate Jell-O every Sunday to help keep track of the days.

6 Olive oil ice cream is a popular flavor in several fancy restaurants.

© BRAND X / SUPERSTOCK

Play along with Kai-lan and friends!

Ready for a super celebration?

Join Kai-lan, YeYe and friends as they prepare for Chinese New Year! You'll help create colorful lanterns, cook yummy dumplings, march in a dragon parade, and put on an exciting fireworks show!







It's super game day!

Get ready to play with Kai-lan and friends in all sorts of super exciting games! You'll get to race to the finish line in a dragon boat, pop colorful bubbles, and more until Mr. Sun goes to sleep!





Wii. NINTENDO DS. Nickelodeon DANGER! HIGH VOLTAGE BLACK LANTERN STUDIOS, INC. 2K play

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7 Twinkies originally had **banana filling.**

8 Thirty-five percent of Americans surveyed admitted to **eating pie** for breakfast.

9 You can buy a **cupcake-shaped** designer **handbag**—with strawberry- and chocolate-**colored crystals**—for **$4,295.**

10 The word **cookie** comes from the Dutch word, ***koekje,*** which means **small cake.**

green scene

BY ALLIE BENJAMIN

CREATE A GREEN THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is a time to give thanks, so why not show the Earth some gratitude this year? Prepare an eco-friendly celebration that even Mother Nature would be proud of. Here are some small things you can do to make a difference.



1 BRING YOUR OWN BAG

Shop for the holidays with a reusable fabric bag. You'll help reduce millions of plastic bags that make their way to landfills, waterways, and oceans each year.



2 TURN DOWN THE HEAT

With all the heat produced from cooking a giant feast, your house will be warmer than usual. Turn down the thermostat at least two degrees to conserve energy.



3 LET'S TALK TURKEY

The big meal is over, so what do you do with all the leftover turkey? Don't let it go to waste. Using the extra meat, make a delicious soup you can gobble down after the holiday.



4 BUY LOCALLY

Produce travels an average of 1,500 miles before reaching your home. Buy ingredients at a nearby farmers' market to avoid harmful emissions created by transporting food from far away.



5 BE GREEN BY GIVING

Help those who need it this holiday. If you have any extra food items or canned goods you don't want, take them to a soup kitchen.



6 AVOID WASTING FOOD

The number of garbage trucks Americans fill each year would stretch halfway to the moon. Create natural fertilizer for your garden by composting vegetable scraps.



7 DITCH THE PAPER NAPKINS

Chowing down on all that delicious food can get messy, so use cloth napkins rather than paper. Cloth napkins can be washed and reused, which saves trees.



8 MAKE GREEN DECORATIONS

Make your own festive holiday decorations. Create a colorful centerpiece using fruits and vegetables that you can eat later.

For more about helping the Earth, read our blog. kidsblogs.nationalgeographic.com/greenscene

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A musical adventure... Just a backyard away!







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ESRB CONTENT RATING www.esrb.org

Join your favorite backyard friends as you blast into outer space as intergalactic garbage collectors, say **ARRR** as you search for a pirate-y treasure, and capture the evil yucky villains as masked super heroes! There's always an adventure when you have your imagination. So come along...with your friends, the Backyardigans!

NINTENDO DS. NICKELODEON BLACK LANTERN STUDIOS, INC. 2K play

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sports funnies

uh-oh!

1



PICK ME! PICK ME! I WANT TO GO TO THE AMERICAN IDOL CONCERT!

France's Sophie Herbrecht tries to toss a ball past the Romanian team at the 2007 Women's World Handball Championship in Paris, France.

2



IT'S HEADING RIGHT FOR ME!

Muttiah Muralitharan of Sri Lanka bowls to his opponent during a 2006 cricket game in London, England.

© STEPHANE REIX / FOR PICTURE / CORBIS (1); REUTERS / DYLAN MARTINEZ (2)

WORLD'S COOLEST SKYSCRAPER

CHECK OUT THIS AMAZING ROTATING BUILDING.

BY DOUGLAS E. RICHARDS

Humans have built incredible structures, including the Great Wall of China and the pyramids of Egypt. But there's one thing that even the world's most amazing structures can't do: alter their shapes. Well, that could change.

Someday, you could live in a shape-shifting skyscraper that never stays still. The first of these buildings, which are called Dynamic Towers, will be built in Dubai, a city in the United Arab Emirates in the Middle East. It will be about two-and-a-half times taller than the Washington Monument. Each floor will be in constant motion, rotating independently and at different speeds—like an 80-story Rubik's Cube forever being twisted by invisible hands. "These buildings will never look the same," according to David Fisher, the architect behind the idea.

LIFE IN A DYNAMIC TOWER

You're in your kitchen eating breakfast more than a quarter mile above the ground and decide you want a different view. "Ocean view," you call out. A voice-activated control system begins to rotate your luxury apartment. After breakfast you go for a quick swim before school. You dive into the indoor pool right next to your bedroom. Then you and your mom hop into the family car parked at the entrance to your apartment (below) on the 77th floor. She drives it into a huge elevator, which descends to the ground floor. Off you go!



GREENEST SKYSCRAPER

Wind will power the tower's motion, making it the first self-powered skyscraper in history. To generate electricity, the Dubai skyscraper will place windmill blades horizontally between each floor of the building (below). There



IT ROTATES!



SUPERSTRUCTURES

Take a look at these remarkable facts about six of the world's skyscrapers.



TAIPEI 101 IN TAIWAN, CHINA: IT'S BUILT TO WITHSTAND 130-MILE-AN-HOUR WINDS.



EMPIRE STATE BUILDING IN NEW YORK CITY: LIGHTNING STRIKES THIS BUILDING ABOUT 100 TIMES A YEAR.



WILLIS (FORMERLY SEARS) TOWER IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS: AT 1,450 FEET, IT IS THE TALLEST BUILDING IN NORTH AMERICA.

will be 79 of these wind turbines. In addition, the roofs of each of the floors will have solar panels to capture the sun's energy. Combined, this will generate enough electricity to power the entire tower—and several nearby skyscrapers as well.



SKYSCRAPER FACTORIES

Skyscrapers are usually built one floor at a time—from the bottom up. But not the Dynamic Tower: It will be the world's first skyscraper to be built in a factory. Only the enormous concrete core will be built on-site. This cylinder, weighing about 1.2 million pounds, will contain plumbing and elevators. While the core is being built, each floor will be made in segments at a factory. These will be shipped to the construction site ready to go: Even the furniture will be inside. The segments will be lifted up the side of the building and attached to the core from the top down, making construction safer, faster, and less expensive.



EVER-CHANGING

This may sound like fantasy, but in a few years the Dynamic Tower is expected to become a reality. The first 35 floors will consist of offices and a luxury hotel. Floors 36 through 70 will house numerous apartments, but each of the top ten floors in the 80-story tower will be a single apartment. While the architect will control the movement of most of the floors, anyone who owns one of the top ten apartments will be able to move them however they like. Each luxury apartment, expected to cost about $36 million, will have more space inside than five average houses in the United States put together.

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PETRONAS TOWERS IN KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA: THE TOWERS HAVE 32,000 WINDOWS. IT TAKES WINDOW WASHERS A MONTH TO CLEAN EACH TOWER.



TWO INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CENTRE IN HONG KONG, CHINA: THERE ARE 62 ELEVATORS IN THE 1,362-FOOT-TALL BUILDING.



JIN MAO TOWER IN SHANGHAI, CHINA: THIS 88-STORY BUILDING HAS AN INDOOR OBSERVATION DECK ON THE TOP FLOOR.

The Truth Behind the New Movie

FANTASTIC MR. FOX

BY JAMIE KIFFEL-ALCHEH

In the new movie *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, expert chicken-stealer Mr. Fox finds himself trapped underground by three grumpy farmers tired of his troublemaking. Now Mr. Fox and his friends must choose between leaving their holes to find food even though they'd risk capture, or staying underground to starve. Will Mr. Fox's sly ideas save them? Would a real fox behave the same way? NG KIDS went behind the scenes to find out.

Digging Up Dirt

When the farmers try to dig out Mr. Fox from the hill where he lives, Mr. Fox furiously tunnels in the opposite direction. Real foxes wouldn't have it so easy. "Foxes' claws are small, like a dog's," says biologist Matt Peek of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. They can claw their way under fences or dig a den to live in, but their claws can't dig a tunnel fast enough to escape a predator. Instead, a fox would just pop out of its hole and race away.

Rat Attack

Mrs. Fox wrestles with an evil rat that has kidnapped her son, Ash. She refuses to back down until her son is safe. Would a real mama fox do the same? "She *would* defend her babies from a coyote, but by trying to lure it away with a 'come-and-get-*me*' bark," Peek says. "Rats, though, are just dinner to foxes. It would be a short fight." And a fox-versus-rat fight would look more like ballet than wrestling. "Foxes jump several feet and pounce on rodents," Peek says.

Most of the sets were built out of things you may have in your house. Grassy hills are actually bath towels. "Any smoke you see is made out of cotton balls," says producer Allison Abbate. "The waterfalls and streams are clear cellophane."



KYLIE THE POSSUM IS MR. FOX'S BEST FRIEND.

FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES (ALL MOVIE IMAGES); OREO WILLIAMS (BEHIND THE SCENES IMAGES)

The movie is based on the book *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, by Roald Dahl.

Weaseling In

Weasel is a slick real estate agent who talks Mr. Fox into buying a house he can't afford. Are real weasels that "weaselly"? "They probably got that reputation because they slink in the shadows," Peek says. "They sneak along a fence or in the shadows of rocks or brush to stay safe from raptors or mammals pouncing from above."



ASH (RIGHT) AND HIS COUSIN KRISTOPHERSON BREAK INTO A FARMER'S KITCHEN.



FROM LEFT: KRISTOPHERSON, KYLIE, MR. FOX, MRS. FOX, AND ASH ARE AWAKENED BY SOMETHING THAT CAN'T POSSIBLY BE GOOD.

Badger of Honor

Badger seems like a grumpy old coot, arguing with Mr. Fox and hurling pinecones at people. "Real badgers have a mean rep because they're aggressive fighters," Peek says. "They aren't good runners, so they'll stand their ground and fight back." One trick they use is to lie flat on the ground so the predator can grab only the skin on their backs, which is very loose. That way, the badger can turn around and bite.



BADGER, WHO IS MR. FOX'S LAWYER, GIVES ADVICE.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Rabbit cooks an entire feast for the underground animals after Mr. Fox breaks into the farmers' food storage rooms. Real rabbits also "prepare" interesting food...but you wouldn't want to taste it. "Rabbits basically eat their food twice," says Jan McCoy of the Oregon Zoo. "They excrete little green pellets of digested food rich in vitamins and protein that they then eat." Why would they do this? "They're getting all the nutrition they possibly can out of their meal," McCoy says.

BEHIND THE SCENES



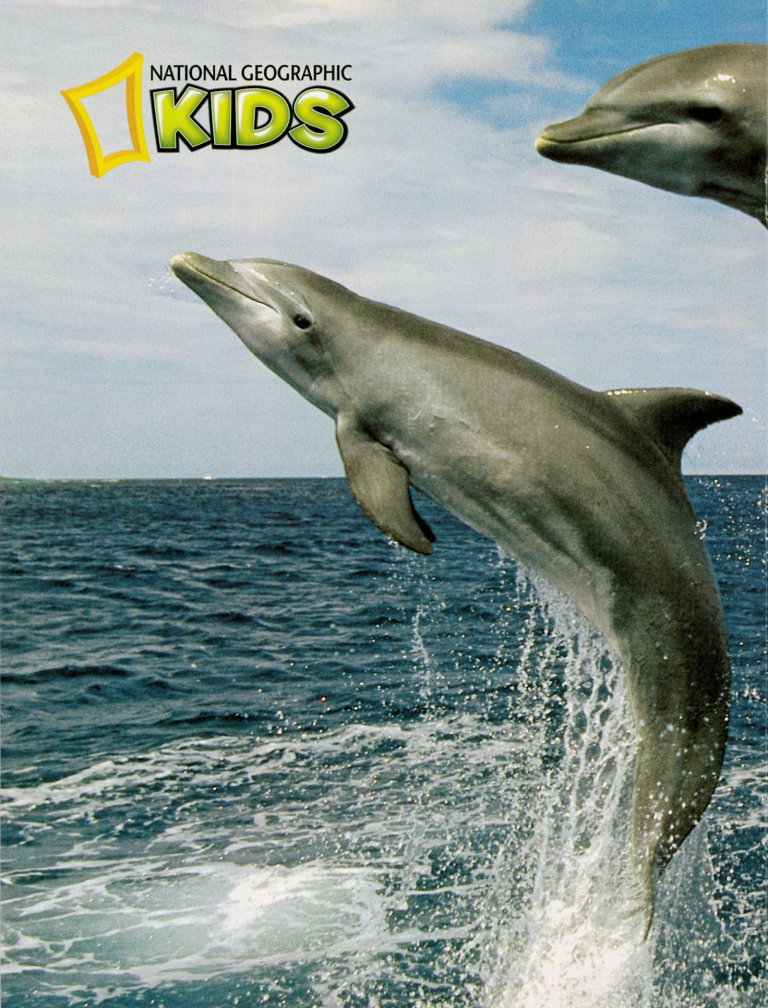
Fantastic Mr. Fox is a stop-motion animated movie, which means the characters are actually puppets that are moved just a smidge for each shot. Above, director Wes Anderson positions some of those puppets.



Bill Murray, the actor who voices Badger, looks into the puppet's set. In the movie, Badger's law office is built into a beaver dam.

All the puppets have a molded steel skeleton that is covered in foam. Fur is glued on later, and tiny paintbrushes add the fine details.




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SPECIAL EDITION

Amazing Animal Friends



Like humans, animals take care of each other. Sometimes it doesn't matter if they're different species. These stories prove that friendship comes in all shapes and sizes.

CHIMP LOVES DOG

Frazier Park, California

When Suzy the chimpanzee lost her mother, her caretaker wasn't sure if the primate would survive on her own. That's when Augie the golden retriever stepped in as part babysitter, part best friend. Suzy climbs the good-natured pooch like a jungle gym and takes rides on his back. The two sleep together and even share meals: Suzy gives her jelly sandwiches to the dog after he's eaten all his chow. "Whenever Suzy gets startled, Augie's the first one she runs to," says Keith Bauer, Suzy's caretaker and Augie's owner. "They trust each other. Suzy knows he'll never hurt her, and Augie never would."

© LENNETTE NEWELL PHOTOGRAPHY (SUZY AND AUGIE); © LOTHAR LENZ (BUBUB AND GUARKI); © RICHARD AUSTIN IMAGES (LILLY AND BILLY); © KONRAD WOTHE / MINDEN PICTURES (BOTTLENOSE DOLPHINS, PAGES 18-19)

BY C.M. TOMLIN

6 stories of true friendship



CAT PLAYS WITH MARTEN

Dohr, Germany
After a mechanic discovered a marten under a car's hood, the fuzzy fellow had no place to go. Luckily photographer Lothar Lenz adopted him—and so did Lenz's cat, Quarki. Quarki and the marten, named Bubub, are now inseparable and spend their days scampering up trees, climbing perches, and playing tag. That is, until the pals tire out. Then they curl up in a tiny box for a nap till they're ready to play some more. Says Lenz: "You hardly ever see one without the other."



DOG PROTECTS GOAT

Buckfastleigh, England
When Lilly the goat arrived at Pennywell Farm after her mother abandoned her, humans weren't the only ones who cared for her. Billy the boxer did, too. Like an adoptive dad, Billy made sure Lilly kept her coat and muzzle clean by softly licking the milk the goat spilled on herself during bottle-feedings. Later, after the two playfully chased each other and it was time to go inside, Billy would gently nudge Lilly's bottom if she dawdled. When Billy leaped onto the sofa to watch TV, Lilly sprang up right next to him. "It's like Lilly has her own personal watchdog," owner Chris Murray says.

Amazing Animal Friends



The word orangutan comes from two words in Asian languages: *orang*, meaning "man," and *utan*, meaning "of the forest."

ORANGUTAN KEEPS PET CAT

Panama City Beach, Florida
Tonda the orangutan was sad when her mate went away. She even lost interest in painting, one of her favorite hobbies. Then her keepers introduced her to a cat named T.K.—and suddenly the ape was back to her old self. "Tonda carried T.K. all over the place," says Stephanie Willard of ZooWorld. "She gave him food, stroked him, and dangled toys for him to play with." The orangutan even covered T.K.'s eyes when the ape got her shots so the cat wouldn't be afraid. Tonda wouldn't come into her enclosure at night until T.K. was there, too. The cat even inspired Tonda to start painting again.



© BROWN / GT PHOTO (TONDA AND T.K.); FISHING4 / TAS (DEER AND RABBIT, BOTH); © THE ELEPHANT SANCTUARY IN TENNESSEE (TARRA AND BELLA, BOTH)



ELEPHANT HEALS POOCH

Hohenwald, Tennessee
It's common for two elephants to be best friends at the Elephant Sanctuary. But an elephant and a dog? That's a little unusual! Despite their nearly 8,700-pound difference, Bella the dog rolls over on her back and allows Tarra the elephant to rub her belly with her trunk. The two go on walks together and sleep side by side. Once, Bella injured herself and couldn't move her back legs or even wag her tail. The elephant waited outside the vet's office every day while Bella healed. Caregivers carried the dog out to visit with her pachyderm pal so the two could "talk" to each other through barks and rumbles while Tarra gently rubbed Bella with her trunk. Soon Bella was on her way to recovery—and workers truly believe Tarra's caring nature helped the dog heal. "Bella and Tarra give each other unconditional love 24/7," says sanctuary cofounder Carol Buckley. It's definitely an elephant-size friendship.



Go online for a chance to win a copy of the books *Travels With Tarra* and *Just for Elephants.*
kids.nationalgeographic.com/Activities/New/Giveaways

RABBIT BUILDS BED FOR DEER

Niedersachsen, Germany
After her mother was struck by a car, Finchen the fawn was brought to live on a farm. One day as she grazed, a wild rabbit appeared, and it's been by Finchen's side ever since. "I've watched them alert each other to hazards or predators so they can flee to safety," says Tanja Askani, who photographed the pair. But Finchen and her rabbit friend seem to be more than each other's bodyguard. The rabbit must have realized that Finchen was too big to sleep underground, because the bunny built a grassy nest that was big enough for them both to curl up in. They're like a real-life Bambi and Thumper.



Wacky America

Check out these 6 strange-but-true roadside attractions.

BY JILL YAWORSKI

You're riding in the car listening to your favorite tune and daydreaming about the next cool stop on this family vacation. Suddenly your dad slows down. Peering into an alley, you see an entire wall covered in gum! Huh? Actually, this sticky attraction is just one of many wacky art displays scattered across the country. So buckle your seat belt and get ready for a wild ride.





Bubblegum Alley

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA

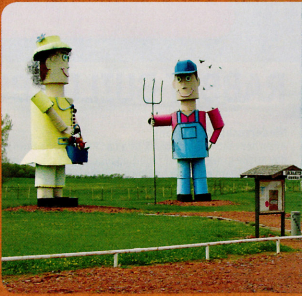
Some call it art; others call it just plain gross. Bubblegum Alley is covered from top to bottom with wads of chewed gum, a tradition that was started mysteriously by locals in the 1950s. Some artists even created images of funny faces and the American flag. Unamused community members had the "masterpiece" removed—twice. But the cleanup didn't stick, and soon more gum appeared. Now the alley has more than two million pieces of gum on it.

Blue Whale 2

CATOOSA, OKLAHOMA

Not ready to dive the depths of the ocean to see a blue whale? No problem. Just visit this 80-foot-long cement beast, which even has a slide and diving board so visitors can take a dip in the pond. When the artist died, the whale fell into disrepair. Neighbors couldn't stand to see the grinning whale fall apart, so they fixed it and now keep it bright with gallons (and gallons) of blue paint.





PAUL HARRIS / GETTY IMAGES (1); © RICHARD CUMMINS / ALAMY (2); MELBA KNOWLES (3); © ROADSIDEAMERICA.COM (4); GARY GREFF (5); © CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL / LINDA M. UPHOFF (6, BIG); © CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL (6, MODEL)



3 Lonesome Legs

AMARILLO, TEXAS

Just what *are* these large legs doing in a cow pasture? According to artist Lightnin' McDuff, they represent a poem about a traveler who finds a bodiless statue of an Egyptian pharaoh called Ozymandias. Using concrete over a steel frame, McDuff constructed the legs to appear as if they were made of weathered sandstone. And the socks? A prankster keeps adding them—even though McDuff always removes the unwanted addition.



4 Giant Penguin

CUT BANK, MONTANA

Bundle up when you visit this statue, because temperatures here can get as low as 47 degrees below zero. As a nod to the frosty conditions, a local businessman built the 27-foot-tall penguin out of 10,000 pounds of concrete. The creator left for warmer weather, but the statue—seven times the height of a real emperor penguin—still stands, welcoming visitors to its chilly home.



5 Tin Family

REGENT, NORTH DAKOTA

This Tin Family is a long way from Oz. They appear along the Enchanted Highway, a 32-mile stretch of road displaying seven gigantic metal sculptures. A group of farmers and ranchers constructed the family using materials such as oil tanks and barbed wire. Tin Son is 23 feet tall, Tin Ma is 44 feet, and Tin Pa stands 45 feet tall.

6 Crazy Horse Memorial

BLACK HILLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

Nope, you're not going crazy. That mountain *definitely* looks like a giant face—the face of Native American leader Crazy Horse, actually. The Crazy Horse Memorial crew uses explosives to carefully shape and remove the rock. When it's complete, the 563-foot-tall sculpture will show the leader riding a horse. Who knows when that will be? Finishing the face took more than ten years.

A 1/34TH-SCALE MODEL STANDS IN FRONT OF THE WORK-IN-PROGRESS.

Go online to see more wacky roadside attractions!
kids.nationalgeographic.com

BY KRISTIN BAIRD RATTINI

GUARDIANS OF THE TOMB

These mysterious CLAY SOLDIERS were hidden underground for thousands of years.

Some Chinese farmers were digging for water when they got the shock of their lives. A face stared up at them from the soil, eyes wide open, with features that looked almost human. But the face was not part of a skeleton; it was made of baked clay, called terra cotta. And it led to the discovery of what many say is the eighth wonder of the ancient world.

BURIED TREASURE

Underneath the mysterious head lay a pit the size of two football fields filled with thousands of life-size clay soldiers that had been hidden for 2,200 years. Row upon row of the soldiers were placed in battle formation, each face different from the next. "Every hair on the head and tread on the shoes is so realistic," says China expert Albert Dien.

Over time, archaeologists found a total of four pits, some containing statues of horse-drawn chariots, cavalry (soldiers on horseback), and high-ranking officers. One of the pits was empty and likely unfinished.

TELLING CLUES

Who could have built this huge underground army? The archaeologists had a hunch they knew the answer.

Found near Xi'an, which was China's capital city for nearly 2,000 years, the soldiers could be the work of only one person: China's first emperor, Qin Shihuangdi (chin shure-hwong-dee).

The brilliant but brutal ruler was known for his big ideas and even bigger ego. He conquered nearby lands, creating the first unified China. He also ordered workers to build a hill taller than the Statue of Liberty for his tomb. This giant grave was less than a mile from the pits of terra cotta warriors. "There had to be a connection," Dien says.

AN ETERNAL ARMY

Ancient Chinese rulers often were buried with small figurines of soldiers meant to protect them in the afterlife. But Qin Shihuangdi's terra cotta soldiers were grander than anything ever seen. "The emperor had killed a lot of people, so maybe he wanted a large army to protect him from his victims' ghosts," says Dien.

STATUES OF ARCHERS (ABOVE AND RIGHT, STANDING) WERE BURIED HOLDING REAL CROSSBOWS.



HORSE-DRAWN CHARIOT

UNDER RECONSTRUCTION

Experts have painstakingly rebuilt and restored a thousand terra cotta warriors found in underground pits near the emperor's tomb. The complex is so vast that excavations may continue for generations.

ANCIENT CRAFTSMEN MADE THOUSANDS OF LIFE-SIZE TERRA COTTA WARRIORS, EACH WITH A UNIQUE FACE.

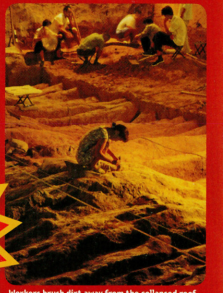
YIKES! WE'RE SUPPOSED TO PROTECT THE EMPEROR FROM GHOSTS?



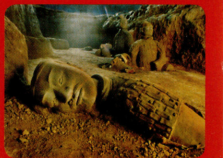
"Terra Cotta Warriors: Guardians of China's First Emperor" is on exhibit at the National Geographic Museum in Washington, DC, November 19, 2009–March 31, 2010. See a video online. kids.nationalgeographic.com



A warrior's head poking out of the dirt still has traces of red paint. Originally all of the warriors were painted bright colors.



Workers brush dirt away from the collapsed roof that sheltered the terra cotta warriors.



A toppled terra cotta warrior lies in its 2,200-year-old underground tomb.

FINAL REWARDS

It turned out that the emperor's living enemies took revenge—not the dead ones. In 206 B.C., a few years after Qin Shihuangdi's death, invading armies set the pits' wooden support beams on fire. The roofs collapsed, burying the warriors and cracking every figure. The pits caved in more as time went on, and the soldiers were lost to the ages.

Since the farmers' discovery in 1974, experts have pieced a thousand soldiers back together. But some 6,000 figures are still buried. As work continues, who knows what secrets these soldiers have yet to tell?







WANG DA GANG (BOTH ARCHERS, CHARIOT, MUSICIANS); O. LOUIS MAZZATENTA / NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC STOCK (GROUP OF WARRIORS, HEAD, WORKERS IN PIT, TOPPLED SOLDIER)

Rhino Rescu

BY SCOTT ELDER



A rhino has hair only on its ears and the tip of its tail.

There are five rhino species: black, white, greater one-horned, Sumatran, and Javan. Maalim is a black rhinoceros.

ROAN CARR-HARTLEY HELPS CARE FOR MAALIM.

How an abandoned newborn finds a new family





ANGELA SHELDRICK OF THE DAVID SHELDRICK WILDLIFE TRUST (ALL)

The baby rhinoceros cautiously sniffs and explores his surroundings on the African savanna. His mother, hurt and scared after crashing through an electric fence, is gone. The experience so terrified the mother rhino that it overpowered her strong maternal instinct to care for her newborn. She runs off, abandoning her baby. He is left with no one to nurture and protect him.

NIGHTTIME BRINGS out predators on the hunt for an easy meal like a helpless newborn rhino. Luckily a group of government rangers patrolling Kenya's Tsavo West National Park find him first. The rhino is so small that the rangers initially mistake him for a young warthog. Unsure of what to do with a tiny orphaned rhino, a ranger named Maalim simply picks up the gentle creature and carries him back to their base.

An urgent call for help is sent to the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, an organization that specializes in raising orphaned wildlife. The trust sends a plane to Tsavo carrying an experienced keeper who brings a special milk formula and antibiotics. As soon as the starving rhino empties the milk bottle, the plane flies him to the trust's nursery in Nairobi, Kenya's capital.

THE LITTLE RHINO, which they call Maalim in honor of the ranger who rescued him, remains calm. "Maalim is far too young to be either scared or curious," says Angela Sheldrick, the daughter of the trust's founder, Daphne Sheldrick. "All he wants is something larger near him." Finding something larger to feel like his mother isn't difficult because the little rhino weighs only 55 pounds. To help Maalim feel at home at the nursery, and to replace the attention his mother would normally give, a team of keepers cares for him in shifts so that he has a companion 24 hours a day. The keepers bottle-feed Maalim a pint and a half of formula every four hours, take him for long walks in a nearby park, and even sleep beside him in his stable.

EVERY DAY, MAALIM gets to roll around in the dirt and mud, which isn't just for fun—the dirt protects him from insect bites and keeps his skin healthy. Although a rhino's hide looks like tough armor, its skin is very sensitive. "They enjoy being petted and rubbed," says Daphne. Everyone is happy to give Maalim a good massage.

But Maalim can't make friends with everyone. He must be separated from the 17 elephant orphans that live at the nursery. Otherwise Maalim will assume all elephants are friendly when, in fact, the adult elephants he will encounter in the wild will likely react with hostility. Little Maalim can't mingle with the two older orphaned rhinos at the nursery either—not yet, anyway. Rhinos are very territorial, so Maalim must be introduced to others gradually by leaving his scent on the paths they visit separately.

After two months at the trust's nursery, Maalim gains weight, and the tiny bump on his snout begins to grow. Eventually that bump will become the larger of his two horns, the rhino's natural tool for self-defense—and the reason they were hunted nearly to extinction. Some people in Asia will pay top dollar for ground-up rhino horn because they believe it's a medicine, and poachers kill rhinos to sell their horns. "In fact, it is just the same as a fingernail," says Daphne.

WHEN MAALIM IS RELEASED back into Tsavo West National Park at age five, poachers will still pose a threat to him and his endangered species. But Maalim will have bodyguards—the rangers who patrol the park. With their protection, Maalim will get his second chance to roam free as a wild rhino.

FunStuff

games, laughs, and lots to do!



Let's Talk Turkey!

This chef is going global. She's starring in a Thanksgiving cooking show and needs to include 12 foods named after places from around the world. Find them in this scene. For example, one of the answers is Swiss cheese.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 35

JAMES TAMGUAY

What in the World?

Play interactive "What in the World?" and other games online. kids.nationalgeographic.com

RAIN FOREST ANIMALS

These images show close-up views of animals that can be found in the rain forests of Central and South America. Unscramble the letters to identify what's in each picture. Feeling lost? ANSWERS ON PAGE 35



ELFA-EUTCRT TAN



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OSPINO TADR RGOF



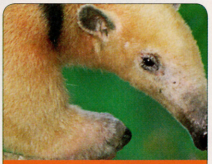
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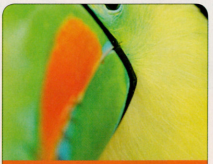
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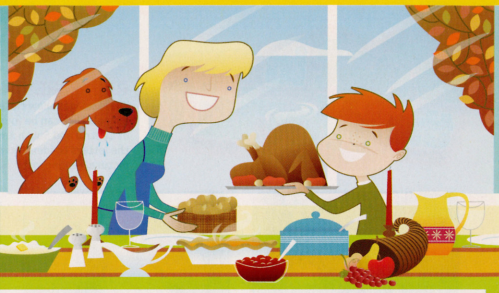
TOP ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): © MARK BOWLER / MAPPA / PHOTOSHOT; © KONRAD WOTHE / MINDEN PICTURES; © ZSSD / MINDEN PICTURES. MIDDLE ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): © MICHAEL & PATRICIA FOGDEN / MINDEN PICTURES; © JILL LANNON/PHOTO / PHOTOSHOT; © STUART WESTMORLAND / NATURE PICTURE LIBRARY. BOTTOM ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): © FRANS LANTING, MINDEN PICTURES; © FRANS LANTING / CORBIS; © CHRIS HOWES / WILD PICTURES / CORBIS

Funny FILL-IN

Thanksgiving Thief!

BY JILL YAWORSKI

Ask a friend to give you words to fill in the blanks in this story without showing it to him or her. Then read out loud for a laugh.



This year I helped my parents _____ (verb) Thanksgiving dinner. It took _____ (number) hours, but it was worth it—the _____ (food) smelled so delicious. We set the _____ (piece of furniture) with the _____ (adjective) china and _____ (adjective) crystal. When Uncle _____ (male family member's name) and Aunt _____ (female family member's name) arrived, we were ready to dig in. All of a sudden we heard a crash from the _____ (room in the house). Our pet _____ (animal), _____ (famous singer), was making a beeline for the turkey. My dad tried to stop her, but he tripped on a(n) _____ (toy) and crashed through a(n) _____ (noun). _____ (verb ending in -ing) on the table, my mom landed on the gravy and sent the _____ (vegetable) pie _____ (verb ending in -ing) through the air. I tried to catch the pie, but it landed on my head, its _____ (color) filling dripping and oozing down my face. Before I knew it, everyone was _____ (verb ending in -ing) on the floor and laughing. Meanwhile _____ (same famous singer) stood on the table eating a turkey _____ (animal body part). My mom just shrugged and said, "Who wants takeout _____ (food)?"



DAN SIPPLE

Back Talk



What do YOU think this elephant is thinking?

1. Fill in the thought balloon.
2. Cut out the entire picture (or make a photocopy of it).
3. Mail it along with your name, address, phone number, and date of birth to NG KIDS, Back Talk, P.O. Box 96000, WASHINGTON, DC 20090-6000. Selection for publication in a future issue will be at the discretion of NG KIDS.



From the August Issue

Remind me never to turn it on high again.
Bobby C., 11
Wichita Falls, Texas

I'm a huge fan of afternoon naps.
Samantha and Andrew F., 10 and 8
Bordentown, New Jersey

Does anyone feel a draft?
Kristin M., 12
Fort Collins, Colorado

Ahh, the dog days of summer.
Katie J., 11
Azle, Texas

Can someone get me a pillow?
Mary T., 9
Richmond, Michigan

Let the good times blow.
Spencer O., 10
Bay Village, Ohio

Wake me up when it's winter.
Jack F., 6
Little Silver, New Jersey

Move it a little more to the left.
Alyssa K., 9
Bedford, Pennsylvania

© HULTON-DEUTSCH COLLECTION / CORBIS (ELEPHANT);
JACK THNEY / TIME & LIFE PICTURES / GETTY IMAGES (DOG)

Double Take

See if you can spot 12 differences in the two pictures. ANSWERS ON PAGE 35

A crowd of people and balloons fills a street on the Italian island of Sicily.





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Art Zone

CHANNEL SURFING

Tune in for these imaginary TV shows thought up by NG KIDS readers.



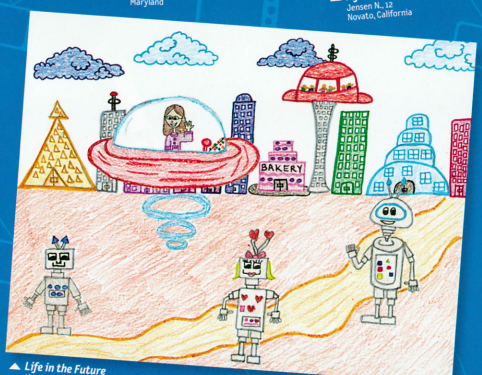
▲ ***American Villain Idol***
Devon J., 12
Baltimore, Maryland



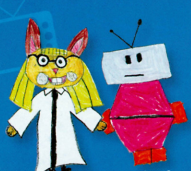
▲ ***My Baking Channel***
Jensen N., 12
Novato, California



▲ ***Attack of the Rats***
Candace C., 11
Ocala, Florida



▲ ***Life in the Future***
Alexandria C., 14
Bayside, New York



▲ ***Gadgets and Gizmos***
Cassidy E., 9
Chapel Hill, North Carolina



▲ ***Charlie's Island***
Charlie H., 9
Sherwood Park, Alberta, Canada

Draw a cool dream you had!

Send your original drawings to NG KIDS— Dream Art Zone P.O. Box 98002 Washington, DC 20090-8002

Include your name, address, phone number, date of birth, a title for your drawing, a statement that it is your own work, and the name of your parent or guardian. Your parent or guardian must sign a release for publication of your illustration if selected. Submissions become the property of the National Geographic Society, and all rights therein are transferred to the National Geographic Society. Submissions cannot be acknowledged or returned. Selection will be at the discretion of NG KIDS.

Create a flag design for National Geographic's Ocean Now expeditions! For details, go online.
kids.nationalgeographic.com/contests/sweepstakes

Answers



"Let's Talk Turkey" (page 30)
Swiss cheese, Belgian waffles, Italian ice, Brussels sprouts, Philadelphia cheesesteak, English muffins, bologna, french fries, Canadian bacon, Danish pastry, New York cheesecake, Buffalo wings

"What in the World?" (page 31)
Top row: leaf-cutter ant, bats, poison dart frog **Middle row:** eyelash viper, sloth, jaguar **Bottom row:** chameleon, common, toucan

"Double Take" (page 34)


A CARTOON NETWORK ORIGINAL EVENT
10
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